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LETTER DATED 15 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 31 May 1996 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations (S/1996/403), I have the honour to convey to you hereunder the response of the Government of Iraq to the allegations made in that letter concerning violations by Iraq of the ceasefire between the two countries.

1. Paragraph 1: The area in question is at coordinates 154139 (map of Dehloran) and is inside Iranian territory and 16 kilometres from the international boundary. We have no units in that area.

2. Paragraph 2: The area in question is at coordinates 035903 (map of Tib) and is inside our national territory and 3 kilometres from the international boundary. The trucks mentioned were carrying sand and gravel from a quarry in the area.

3. Paragraph 3: The area in question is at coordinates 657294 (map of Wadi Abi Ghurayb) and is inside Iranian territory and 5 kilometres from the international boundary. We have no units in that area.

4. Paragraphs 4 and 10: These allegations are untrue.

5. Paragraph 5: The area in question is at coordinates 025933 (map of Tib) along the border strip. The antenna mentioned is that of an Iraqi frontier post.

6. Paragraphs 8, 19, 22 and 37: The boats mentioned were fishing boats at work in the Shatt al-Arab.

7. Paragraph 11: The area in question is at coordinates 035923 (map of Tib) and is inside Iraq and 1 kilometre from the boundary. The loaders mentioned were civilian vehicles sent to carry wheat and barley from the area.

8. Paragraph 17: The area in question is at coordinates 475493 (map of Shaykh Faris) and is inside our national territory and 4 kilometres from the international boundary. The loaders mentioned were civilian vehicles carrying sand and gravel from the area.

9. Paragraph 25: The area in question is at coordinates 819288 (map of Tib) and is inside our national territory and 1.5 kilometres from the international boundary. The persons mentioned were Iraqi farmers and were in the area in order to work.

10. Paragraph 27: The area in question is at coordinates 035903 (map of Tib), 3 kilometres inside our national territory. The trucks mentioned were sent to carry sand and gravel from a quarry in the area.

11. Paragraphs 31, 36 and 68: There were no engineering activities in the area.

12. Paragraph 34: The area in question is at coordinates 155313 (map of Dehloran), 33 kilometres inside Iranian territory. We do not maintain a presence in the area indicated.

13. Paragraph 35: The area in question is at coordinates 637236 (map of Kani Shaykh) and is inside our national territory and 5 kilometres from the international boundary. The mechanical shovel mentioned was engaged in agricultural work.

14. Paragraph 38: The area in question is at coordinates 666229 (map of Kani Shaykh) and is inside our national territory and 2 kilometres from the international boundary. The vehicle and troops mentioned were from the border guard detachment assigned to watch the boundary with Iran to prevent infiltration.

15. Paragraph 40: The area in question is at coordinates 677242 (map of Kani Shaykh), 1 kilometre from the international boundary. No such weapon as the mortar mentioned was deployed.

16. Paragraph 42: The area in question is at coordinates 145983 (map of Tib) and is inside Iranian territory and 1.5 kilometres from the international boundary. No such Iraqi base was established there.

17. Paragraph 43: The area in question is at coordinates 475493 (map of Shaykh Faris) and is inside our national territory and 3 kilometres from the international boundary. The vehicle mentioned belonged to Iraqi farmers and was sent to carry agricultural produce.

18. Paragraph 46: The area in question is at coordinates 035903 (map of Tib) and is inside our national territory and 3 kilometres from the international boundary. The trucks were carrying sand and gravel from a quarry in the area.

19. Paragraph 51: The area is at coordinates 416646 (map of Shaykh Faris) and is inside Iraqi territory and 500 metres from the international boundary. The

projectiles mentioned were fired at an infiltrator who was trying to cross the boundary into our national territory.

20. Paragraph 54: The area in question is at coordinates 555653 (map of Hawr al-Hawizah) and is inside Iranian territory and 16 kilometres from the international boundary. We do not maintain a presence in the area indicated.

21. Paragraph 55: The area in question is at coordinates 155313 (map of Dehloran) and is inside Iranian territory and 33 kilometres from the international boundary. We do not maintain any presence in that area.

22. Paragraph 57: The area in question is at coordinates 335733 (map of Tib) and is inside our national territory and 2 kilometres from the boundary. The position mentioned belongs to members of the Iraqi border guard assigned to watch the boundaries and prevent illegal entry to or exit from our national territory.

23. Paragraph 58: The area in question is at coordinates 416637 (map of Shaykh Faris) along the border strip. The shots mentioned were fired in a weapons test.

24. Paragraph 63: The area in question is at coordinates 275673 (map of Tib) and is inside our territory and 12 kilometres from the boundary. The troops mentioned were members of the border guard and were on patrol as part of their duties.

25. Paragraph 64: The area in question is at coordinates 545583 (map of Shaykh Faris) and is inside Iranian territory and 6 kilometres from the boundary. We do not maintain a military presence in that area.

26. Paragraph 66: The area in question is at coordinates 545583 (map of Shaykh Faris) and is inside Iranian territory and 6 kilometres from the boundary. Vehicles such as those mentioned have never entered that area.

27. There is no truth whatever to the other Iranian allegations.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative